

Inception Report for Nutrition Specialist Consultant: Development of the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (ARNS) 2026 to 2035

Submitted by:

Professor Osama Awad Salih

Ahfad University for Women, Sudan

28.12.2024

Understanding of the Terms of Reference (TORs)

- **Objective:** The primary goal is to develop a comprehensive Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (ARNS) for the period 2026 to 2035, addressing key nutritional challenges across the region.
- **Scope:** The assignment will encompass:
 - Assessment of current nutritional status and challenges in Africa.
 - Identification of best practices and successful interventions.
 - Engagement with stakeholders to gather insights and recommendations.

2. Methodology and Approach

- **Literature Review:**
 - Conducting a thorough review of existing literature, reports, and strategies related to nutrition in Africa.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:**
 - Organizing consultations with key stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations.
 - Use surveys and interviews to gather qualitative and quantitative data.
- **Data Analysis:**
 - Analyzing collected data to identify trends, gaps, and opportunities for intervention.
- **Drafting the Strategy:**
 - Developing a draft strategy based on findings, incorporating stakeholder feedback.

- **Validation Workshop:**
 - Conducting a workshop to present the draft strategy and gather further input for refinement.

3. Timelines

- **Phase 1: Literature Review and Initial Stakeholder Engagement** (January 2025 - March 2025)
- **Phase 2: Data Collection and Analysis** (April 2025 - June 2025)
- **Phase 3: Drafting the Strategy** (July 2025 - August 2025)
- **Phase 4: Validation Workshop and Finalization** (September 2025 - October 2025)

4. Risk Assumptions

- **Stakeholder Availability:**
 - Risk of key stakeholders being unavailable for consultations.
Mitigation: Schedule meetings well in advance and offer flexible options for participation.
- **Data Accessibility:**
 - Potential challenges in accessing relevant data.
Mitigation: Identify alternative data sources and leverage local networks for information.
- **Political and Economic Instability:**
 - Changes in political or economic conditions may impact the project timeline.
Mitigation: Regularly assess the political landscape and adjust plans accordingly.

5. Stakeholder Consultation Plan

- **Key Stakeholders:**
 - **Government Agencies:** Ministries of Health, Agriculture, and Education.
 - **International Organizations:** WHO, UNICEF, FAO.
 - **NGOs and Civil Society:** Local and international NGOs focused on nutrition and health.

- **Academic Institutions:** Universities and research organizations specializing in nutrition.
- **Community Representatives:** Engage with local communities to understand grassroots challenges and solutions.
- **Consultation Methods:**
 - **Workshops:** Organize workshops to facilitate group discussions and gather diverse perspectives.
 - **Surveys:** Distribute surveys to collect quantitative data from a broader audience.
 - **Interviews:** Conduct one-on-one interviews with key informants for in-depth insights.

Conclusion

This inception report outlines a structured approach to developing the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (ARNS) for 2026 to 2035. By adhering to the proposed methodology, timelines, and stakeholder engagement plan, the assignment aims to create a robust strategy that addresses the nutritional needs of the region effectively.



Osama Awad Salih

- Professor of Human Nutrition, B.Sc.; MSc; PhD
- Ahfad University for Women
- E-mails: nutritioncenternctcb@gmail.com.
- Date: 28.12.2024